



NOVEMBER 1998

# THE GARZETTE



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 11

## The President's Pen

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM



It's the time of the year that we notice changes, a change of the season, a change in the time, and a change in the weather. Now we're beginning to prepare for a change in the club leadership. Nominations for officers are open at the January meeting with another round of nominations open at the February meeting with the election at that meeting. This may seem a bit early to talk about that but we only have one more regular meeting between now and the January meeting. As I write this we've got two candidates that have stepped forward to run for President, David Adcock, KA4KKF and John Sokol, K9AOK. At the October meeting, Kevin McClure, KF4HFN announced his intention to run for Vice President so now we have at least one candidate for that position. We need to recruit people to run for Secretary, Treasurer and Activities Manager but I'm sure we'll find those folks in the coming months.

At the October meeting I announced that our current Newsletter Editor, Joe Bidle, AD4PZ would be stepping down after the Decem-

ber, 1998 issue. David, KA4KKF had agreed to take over the reigns of The GARZETTE but with his decision to run for President, Joe has agreed to stay on a editor until after the elections in February.

While on the subject of change, I've been asked by several people to consider a change in the meeting night for the club. The bylaws do not spell out what night of the month that **GARS** holds it monthly meeting, only that a monthly meeting will be held. So I'm going to float a proposal that we swap our meeting and net nights. We'll hold the meeting on the third Tuesday of each month and move the Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net and the Code Practice Net to each Thursday night. Executive committee meetings and other committee meetings would be scheduled by that specific committee. First of all, this is dependent upon talking with the good folks at Central Baptist Church to see if there's a conflict with them in moving the meeting night. Secondly, before any change is made I want to

(Continued on page 8)

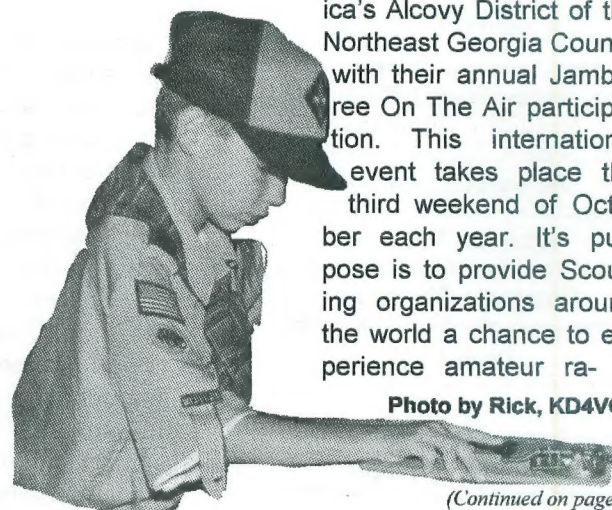
## Jamboree On The Air

By Rick Morris, KD4VOJ

**"CQ CQ CQ JOTA this is W4G calling CQ JOTA and listening."**

It may have been a new special event call sign this year, but once again GARS was there to help the Boy Scouts of America's Alcovy District of the Northeast Georgia Council with their annual Jamboree On The Air participation. This international event takes place the third weekend of October each year. Its purpose is to provide Scouting organizations around the world a chance to experience amateur ra-

Photo by Rick, KD4VOJ



(Continued on page 4)

## GARS WEB PAGE

Our web page is back!

Up-to-date info, tidbits, pictures and ***YES, the GARZETTE***. Don't forget to check it out.

Though there might be some construction going on still, if you have ideas, info or find any errors, please Email the webmaster.

<http://www.gars.org>

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## GARS Officers 1998-1999

### President

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM (770)339-8123

### Vice President

Marty Fowler, KE4MLH (770)682-5789

### Secretary

John Sokol, K9AOK (770)925-1619

### Treasurer

Randy Drescher, K4HS (770)925-9549

### Activities Manager

Kevin McClure, KF4HFN (770) 266-6475

## Board Of Directors

Johnny Fearon, W4WKP (770)466-4038

Duane Hanson, KD4KCR (770)962-6086

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

## COMMITTEES

### Membership Chairman

Jack Herndon, WU4H (770)995-0438

### Publicity Chairman

Mike Swiderski, K4HBI (770)449-0369

### Newsletter Editor

Joe Biddle, AD4PZ (770)963-4316

### License Trustee

Randy Drescher, K4HS (770)925-9549

### Repeater Chairman

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

### Tech Fest

Barry Zoll, N1TOQ (770)277-5175

### TVI

David Schulte, KT4NK (770)923-0389

### Contest Manager

Mark Kozma, KD3GC (770)962-7386

### Net Manager

Jeff Cutchins, KF4NBD (770) 614-8750

### CW Net Manager

Gene Gach, KF4NOG (770) 925-0186

### Rookie Radio

Carter Wood, KF4HLF (770) 923-9667

### Field Day

(OPEN)

### Education Coordinator

Win Jackson, N1TWX (404)869-1347

### Legal Counsel

Bill Brandon, WW4BB (770)554-9998

### Apparel Manager

Susan Swiderski, AF4FO (770)449-0369

### Christmas Party Chairman

Tammy Sokol, (770)925-1619

### Digital Radio Chairman

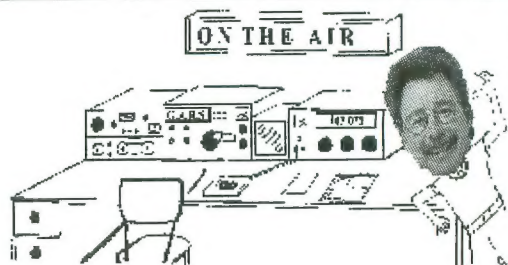
John Farr, KD6CLO (770)279-8711

### HF/VHF/UHF Awards Checker

Ade Wirth, N2BSG (770)614-3743



## On The Air with Larson Watts KF4HLH by Karl Phillips, K4GZZ



This month's On the Air features the man with the perfect last name for a ham- Larson Watts - KF4HLH. Larson was born and raised in LA (lower Alabama, that is). Larson is from Georgiana, Alabama...the

birthplace of Hank Williams. Larson's mother knew of Hank and it is said...well Larson said it...that her sister actually married into the Williams family. Larson went to grammar and high school in Georgiana. Larson said that the grammar school and the high school are in the same building, so you go in the front door when you attend grammar school and

exit the back after high school....sort of an assembly line for education, I guess.

Larson made his way to Atlanta thru Devry Institute and earned an Electronics Associate degree from there in 1972. He then gained employment with NCR in Peachtree City as an electronics repairman and trouble shooter. Larson worked for NCR for 5 years and then went to work for McDonell-Douglas, which was located off of Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. After 5 years there, Larson went to work for Wegener Communications, which specializes in designing and building satellite equipment. Larson was instrumental in assisting in the Fox digital project and the designing of satellite news gathering trucks that are used by all of the local television stations. Larson has been employed with Wegener for the last 17 years.

Larson was introduced to ham radio by his father, who is W4ODB. Larsons'

dad still lives in Georgiana and Larson says he grew up calling "CQ" on 20 meter phone. His dad has been licensed since the early 60's and is a regular check in to the Alabama 80 meter phone net that meets nightly on 3965.

Larson joined GARS in 1996 and wishes to personally thank the club for keeping him in touch with amateur radio. Larson was licensed KF4HLH under the wings of Howie - W4NVF and

Larry WT4XX. Larson is licensed a technician and is in the process of upping his code speed for his General license. The code will demand most of his time while the theory should be less of a problem to grasp.

Larson has a Kenwood TS-440 and a 40 meter attic dipole. He also has a Kenwood 241T 2 meter rig and a Woodlands dual band beam that is also installed in his attic. He also has an Alinco DJ-180 hand held.

Ironically, on the day that Carlton McPherson - WA4ZUW (Carlton! are you out there ???) helped install the Woodlands beam, Larson made contact with his dad during a rare 2 meter opening thru the Montgomery, Alabama repeater. Larson also remembers that Kevin - KF4HFN also worked his dad. We still can't figure how in the world this antenna actually

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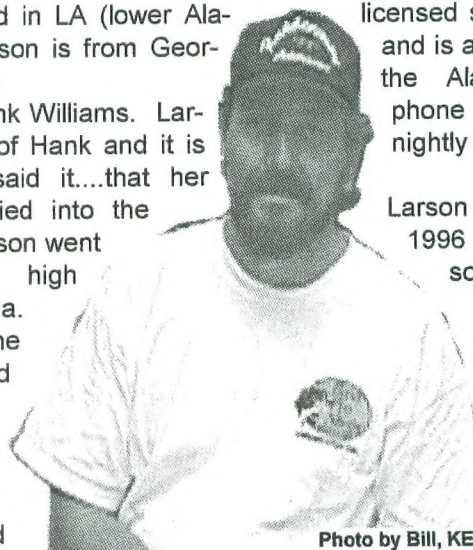


Photo by Bill, KE4EIH



## REBELS & OLD TIME RADIO

Mike Swiderski, K4HBI

Prior to the mid sixties AM, amplitude modulation, was the prevalent form of voice communication around. SSB on HF and FM on VHF was the replacement. AM does take up more bandwidth, double side bands and carrier, than silly side band, but you know, there was no better quality of sound on the air. Just like the broadcast stations that you listen to on the commercial bands. Drawbacks? A few, heterodynes, bandspace, splatter, higher power, but you did not sound like Donald Duck. Well technology drove on and improved the band conditions and SSB operation, so that SSB is the standard mode of operation and the world can be worked with voice communication with less than 100 watts, what a country, what an era.

So what is this got to do with the state of the union or a blue dress? There are rebels out there and some in your own midst, in fact I will share a little secret - I might know one. They meet around 3885 and 7290 kc. (you gotta talk kc. cause kHz hasn't been invented yet on this freq.) No secret handshake, in fact with the rigs being operated, it is a cardinal rule to keep one hand in your pocket, so as to be just shocked not electrocuted. Although some come to this hideout and run their KenIcSu 9000XJY ricebox in the AM mode, however you can detect the shame down deep in their souls. Why!! This is fire bottle, glow in the dark, heat generating, band width eating, occasional spark and smoke COUNTRY.

Do I care about technology, sure I do. I have a Yeasu FT-920, FL2100B, computer SSTV, etc. I hear a station - I work it. The lure of DX, yeah it is still there, but my better half, Susan AF4FO, has enough of that bug for a couple of hams and I enjoy watching her glee as she works a new one. Course if she gets too

wrapped up in it and my tummy starts to growl for food, I will whip out a few cards from over there and deflate her ego long enough to fix us some chow. (only kidding Hon). So I can do all this DX and SSTV stuff, what more is there? There is the other side!!!

The other side of the room and in my shop (once a garage) is the utopia or eden. Tube rigs everywhere, or as some refer to them - boatanchors. So what is the allure? If you haven't seen the purple majesty glow of an 83 or 866 mercury vapor rectifier, smell the ozone in the air just before the arc that the family thinks is lightning, or the fretting vapor of boiling tar oozing out of a transformer, the aromatics of dust burning off of the envelopes, or watch an electrolytic try to take off from the chassis with the same noise, smoke, and flame as a Titan rocket, then you sure missed the GOOD OLD DAYS. (To the old hands, notice I did not mention inadvertently checking a given stages output power with a body part that you really had not planned to use for this test.) This rebel society does have a great quantity of fun reliving the good old days. If you have never put together a crystal radio or regenerative receiver with a handful of parts, you have missed out on one of the finest and most gratifying parts of amateur radio. If you have, maybe a convert from the appliance operator crowd can be found.

If you sneak a listen down to the rebels lair, you will hear they talk in tongues using such as BC610, ART13, Hallicrafters, Hammarland, Drake, Eldico, Heathkit, etc. When they say loading up a Viking it is not a Nordic beer party, nor is aligning a Valiant a trip to the tire store, Collins has nothing to do with an adult beverage, a Super Pro does not refer to

a steroid laden fullback in the NFL, and the big Johnson is not - well lets just say it is a radio manufacturer. This society of rebels has subcultures, but all rebels have three things in common; the love of broadcast quality AM transmission, resurrecting old time gear, talking about how and why they did it. They are open and kind as long as you join them in their common threads.

Some of the subcultures include a sect of Collins fans, the Rolls Royce of vintage radio. Another group are the military bloc that thrive on converting old military rigs into operating ham equipment - actually I should say furniture since a BC610 goes a little over 400 lbs and is the size of a big screen TV. There are the restorers that make the equipment not only functional but looking like you just opened a factory sealed carton. There the modifiers, these folks start with a clunker, make it operational, modify it to suit their own desires, such as plate modulation versus screen modulation, etc. and then use the stuffing out of it.

It is also more fun to operate these rigs as tune up involves peaking the drivers, setting grid currents, dipping plates, increasing the loading while dipping the plate to get to the maximum plate current that the tube or power supply can handle. So while your operating, besides the S-Meter, you get to watch all the other meters flop around, hopefully in the proper directions, and all good AMers have a scope nearby to watch the modulation profile.

How to become a rebel, find an old clunker (the more chicken parts floating around on the inside, usually the better) something preferably without any SSB notation on it, clean it up (remove chicken parts, as they serve no function other than set the

*(Continued on page 5)*



*...Jamboree On The Air**(Continued from page 1)*

dio by contacting other Scouting organizations on the air.

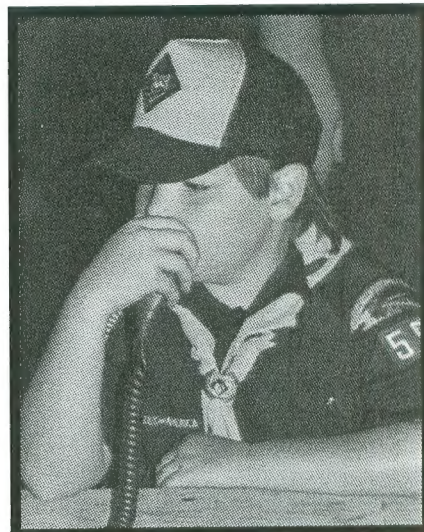
This year GARS volunteers helped to operate two JOTA sites. One site was the Webelos Woods camporee, held at the Scoutland campsite on the shores of Lake Lanier. The other site was at the Methodist Church Campground in Lawrenceville. Both had unique experiences and opportunities.

At Scoutland, Earl Whatley, AF4FG, and Carter Wood, KE4HLF, gave an introduction to amateur radio to more than 800 Scouts aged 8 to 11 years old and adult leaders in groups of about 100 at a time. More than 300 Scouts came back in the afternoon and evening to operate the HF and VHF stations. By the time the last call had been made, contacts had been racked up with more than 12 states as well as France, Gambia and Canada.

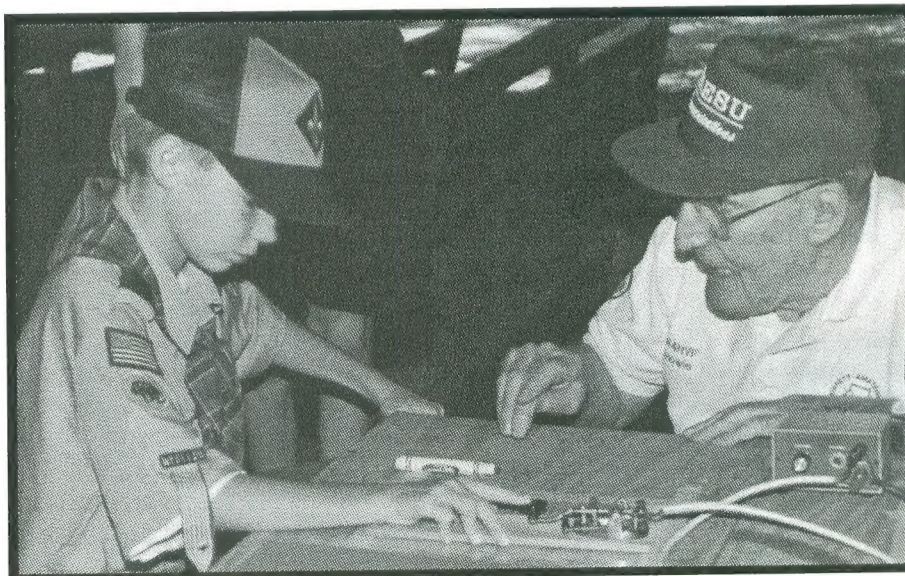
Though not quite as well attended, the Methodist Church Campground location offered visitors a thorough exposure to the various aspects of amateur radio. HF stations were in operation on 10, 15, 20, and 40 meters from both base and mobile installations. VHF stations were not only demonstrating area repeaters, but Second Class Scout, and newly licensed ham, Aaron Morris, KG4ALB, also took visitors on roaming contacts around the campground with HT's. Additional demonstrations were given on introduction to amateur radio, CW practice and operation, RF and antenna safety, amateur television, and packet operation. Visiting Boy Scouts were able to complete their Radio Merit badge in one day by participating in all the demonstrations, logging contacts and completing a worksheet. Contacts for the day included several DX stations, including a JA on 10 meters!! However, the highlight of the day was when Brian Page, N4TRB, worked

K2BSA, the Scouting National Headquarters on 20 meters.

Many thanks go to all the participants in both locations. Helping out at this year's event were Howe Gould (W4NVF), David Adcock (KA4KKF), Ike Chapman (KE4GYM), Marty Fowler (KE4MLH), Dale Baldwin (WB0QGH), Anita Morris (KG4AJX), Aaron Morris (KG4ALB), Rick Morris (KD4VOJ), Randy Drescher (K4HS), Eddie Foust (WD4JEM), Brian Page (N4TRB), Bill Ahls (KE4EIH), Mike Swiderski (K4HBI), Susan Swiderski (AF4FO), Mark Kozma (KD3GC), Earl Whatley (AF4FG) and Carter Wood (KE4HLF), Kevin McClure (KF4HFN), Buddy Menshew (KE4YZS), Joe Bidle (AD4PZ).



Photos by Rick, KD4VOJ



Howie, W4NVF giving a young chap the finer points of dit-dit-dit.

### Operating in France simplified

Meanwhile, France no longer requires a temporary operating permit for visits by foreign hams who stay no longer than 90 days on French soil. Also, there is no longer any charge for an extended operating permit.

According to information posted to the VHF Reflector and several DX remailers, applicants for temporary French operating permits used pay a one hundred Francs in French currency for such a permit. They also had to apply at least six weeks before their expected arrival in France or a French territory. With the change no special pre notification is now required. (VHF Reflector)



**...REBELS & OLD TIME RADIO***(Continued from page 3)*

units worth), REPLACE all fixed value capacitors (if you don't do it now you will be replacing these capacitors one at a time over the first two months of operation) and put it on the air. If it works great, if not it is on to tube checking and troubleshooting. This phase can be frustrating, but the gleeful proud feeling you get when one of the good old boys from the neighboring states tell you what a great signal you have is many times more exciting and soul pleasing than getting a 59 from Antarctica.

Invest in an inexpensive old clunker at the next hamfest, break out the ohmmeter and soldering iron, and embark on an adventure that you will never be sorry for, as the rewards are just magical to hear that speaker crackle and smooth out to tones no KenlcSu 9000XJY could ever produce or a transmitter modulation so clear you can hear the mutterings of the operators spouse on the other end. You know what is funny about this whole thing, besides being fun, is you end up learning a lot without even *knowing it*.

So this article has told some of the secrets of the rebel society that uses AM and haunts the bands on 3885 and 7290. I was thinking about joining them, however after looking at my AM log and seeing the SX101A paired with the DX100 (every eden or utopia has a snag and this DX100 is from Hades or it loves me too much, constantly requires fondling), the HT37 paired with an HQ160 (ps this combo for sale), the DX60 paired with a xtal controlled modified WWV receiver, a 1946 Harvey Wells Band Master paired with a 1947 National NC47, and the two Drake TR4s tuned to 3885 AM gave me the Indian signs that I had already crossed the line. And what a fine line it is, if you have not crossed it, it is truly your loss.

73, Mike Swiderski, K4HBI

**Club Announcements**

**TechFest 1999** – Chairman is now Barry Zoll, N1TOQ due to Kevin Berry, KF4RMA being taken out of the area for employment reasons.

**Field Day 1999** – is still in need of a Chairman. The past chairman, Mark, KD3GC, and the executive board will assist getting the new chairman up to speed for this event.

**Club DX QSL Card Manager** – Ade Wirth, N2BSG will be accepting GARS members Outgoing QSL cards and mail them to the bureau. The club will pickup the postage.

**Lawrenceville Hamfest '98**

Hats off to the Alford Memorial RC to another Hamfest well done!

Thanks to all of those involved.

Images by Brian, KF4MWI

The GARS booth stayed well attended and well staffed. Thanks to all who stopped by.



Gordon, KF4OKA helps to direct the 'LOST'.

The Tailgate area was well attended and lots of good stuff was to be had.





## ...On the Air

(Continued from page 2)

works, since they installed it during such good weather. I thought antennas only worked when put up in a thunderstorm or during a blizzard !!!

As a member of GARS since 1996, Larson would like to extend a personal thanks to the club for inspiring him to upgrade and also would like to thank all club members for the friendliness shown him since joining the club.

Aside from ham radio, Larson is also the Unit Director for the Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief, Unit 12. Unit 12 is a logistic support unit that specializes in cleanup and support during times of disasters such as the tornadoes of Dunwoody last April. The unit has a fully functional mobile office that is operated by backup power generators and is stocked with computers, fax machines and radio communications equipment. This would include HF, 2 meter and business band communications. Their office furnishes cleanup, damage and other assistance to homeowners and businesses during any disaster related situation. Dispatched are relief crews with the ability and resources to remove debris and offer any other disaster related needs. Larson is also a director with the Mens Mission for the Alpharetta First Baptist Church. As a director, Larson has been a part in the organization and building of a Habitat for Humanity house.

Larson has a son - Allen -

who is currently studying for his ham ticket.

Larson thanks the GARS club membership and friends in the club that he has gotten to know, not only in the club but outside of the club as well. Some members in the club share Larsons' love for Kayaking...among those are Eddie - WD4JEM, Bill- KE4EIH and Terry - KD4KVY. They are all planning a big kayaking adventure thru Cumberland Island for 3 days sometime this month. Later, Larson hopes to coordinate a trip from Seattle, Washington thru Glacier Bay and later plans a 21 mile kayak trip thru the Okefenokee swamp. Larson loves kayaking as he says it brings him close to nature and wildlife without disturbing it. Larson has kayaked the Chattahoochee - from Lake Lanier to the crossing of 141 and Peachtree Corners. He, Eddie and Bill, paddle Lake Lanier at least once a week.

Larson has setup a portable 2 meter station at his place of business and with the assistance of 3 other hams there, they are planning to install an outside 2 meter antenna. In the future are plans to expand the station to include HF capabilities.

It was a lot of fun to learn more about Larson Watts. He's a great guy, with a lot to offer our club. He is around the repeater a good bit so chances are if you call him, he will return. Thanks, Larson for a great interview.

Hope you all had a great time at the Alford Hamfest. See you next month for another feature on a GARS club member. Till then... good DX and best

73 - Karl - K4GZZ

## DECEMBER Birthdays Within GARS

By Jack Herndon, WU4H

- |    |        |                 |
|----|--------|-----------------|
| 1  | WA4YVS | John Shih       |
| 1  | KE4D   | John Veach      |
| 5  | AF4JF  | Herbert Ullmann |
| 10 | KF4VQA | Jeff Lewis      |
| 11 | KE4VDI | Beverly Bryant  |
| 11 | KA4KKF | David Adcock    |
| 13 | AF4FO  | Susan Swiderski |
| 14 | KF4YUD | Eric Snellgrove |
| 15 | KF4MJP | Clark Graves    |
| 17 | AF4CE  | Don Willey      |
| 18 | KN6DO  | Jack Perry      |
| 19 | KD4VHV | Thesdra Robison |
| 19 | W8KJM  | Bernard Barnes  |
| 19 | AD4PZ  | Joseph Biddle   |
| 20 | - - -  | Laura Sims      |
| 20 | KF4HLJ | Thomas Haley    |
| 22 | KT4MQ  | Sara Haynes     |
| 23 | KS4EV  | Steven Sims     |
| 24 | KE4UXW | Thomas Whalen   |
| 24 | KF4TMO | Janice Kelley   |
| 25 | WB2OGY | Steven Back     |
| 26 | KN4N   | Bill Tackett    |
| 28 | KF4UZS | Bill McNeil     |
| 31 | WB4ALU | Mary Whatley    |

## SciTrek STARS Station

There is now a small 'Emergency & Finance' Library located in the **Scitrek-STARS station**. There is also emergency numbers and other good news for hams needing answers. They've also added information on the on line shopping mall for hams and public wanting to shop at home in an emergency. Some funds will be donated from Big Planet Store. [www.bpstore.com](http://www.bpstore.com)"

>Thornton Williams - PIO<





NOVEMBER 1998

# THE GARZETTE

Supplemental Insert



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 11

## GARS Christmas Dinner

Friday December 18

The price for any person, member or non-member, will be \$15 per adult, \$25 per adult couple and \$7.50 per child under the age of 12.

This year the party will be at the Holiday Inn in Suwanee just off of I85 on Lawrenceville/Suwanee Road.

GARS will also host another Can-A-Thon at the party with the proceeds being donated to an unspecified needy group in Gwinnett County. Soplease bring your food items to the party and be sure that the donated food items are both manufactured sealed and non-perishable.

This year promises be bigger than ever. Stay tuned for further details. Door prizes and Santa will have Toys for the Kids!

Please RSVP to John or Tammy Sokol at the Nov. Meeting or Call at 770-925-1619.



## ...more Lawrenceville '98 HamFest Scenes

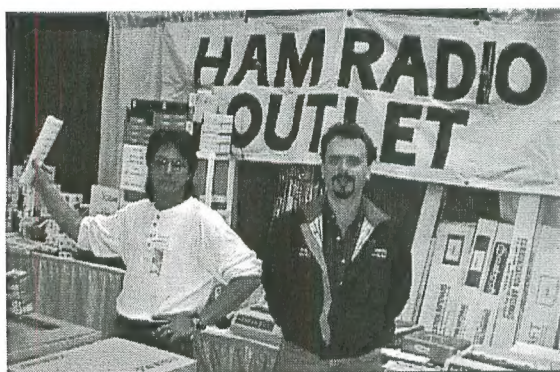


Pickett, AD4S & Son Brian, KF4HSJ

*Images by  
Brian, KF4MWI*



N1TOQ (Barry), K4TJD (Tom), AD4PZ, (Joe) with K4GZZ (Karl) looking on. There is Tom & Karl again together at a hamfest...  
...they sure look Happy don't they!?



Our Friends Mark and Phil of HRO



Duane, KD4KCR taking time out from a buying frenzy to visit the GARS Booth.



Mike, WA4MJZ 'Pointing' out the finer Points of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society.



The Flea area.



## SARL COUNCIL APPROVES NEW MORSE CODE POLICY

South Africa is the latest nation to join the call to give more hams access to the high frequency bands. This by revising international law and their own national regulations regarding the Morse code requirement.

Leading the challenge is the South Africa Radio League or SARL. Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB, has more:

South Africa approves a new Morse Code policy. It's the opinion of the SARL that even though the IARU supports the continuation of regulation S25.5, that there exists no good argument in favor of retaining Morse Code as the only qualifier for Amateurs to have unrestricted access to the HF bands. In line with the views expressed by the majority of the League's members, the SARL will support initiatives of a number of other IARU member societies such as the RSGB in overhauling the qualifications for an unrestricted Amateur license.

The SARL believes the first step in the overhauling process should be the immediate reduction in the Morse Code speed requirement from the present 12 words per minute to 5 words per minute, which still permits compliance with ITU radio regulation S25.5.

If the Amateur Service is to remain relevant in the 21st

century it needs to embrace and encourage the development and usage newer technologies. Clinging to Morse Code as an entry requirement will impeded rather than help this development.

SARL, after consultation with its members, the regulatory authorities and educationalists is in the process of developing a practical "hands on" student amateur license, with a minimal 5 wpm Morse Code exam, which is aimed at schools and school going young people. In order to encourage ongoing development, the League will request SATRA to modify the regulations to permit student licenses full access to all HF bands but with limited RF power output.

The South Africa Radio League is aware that these proposals may offend a number of Amateurs, but it believes that its duty lies in promoting the future of the Amateur Service, and therefore we appeal to those who have concerns, to accommodate these necessary changes and help the SARL re-build the Amateur Service for the 21st century.

The South Africa Radio League says that a draft of the proposed new Student license will be made available for comment within the next few weeks.

(SARL, Q-News, Newsline)

## SEDSAT-1 SATELLITE TO LAUNCH OCTOBER 25!

The SEDSAT-1 satellite package is set go into space Sunday, October 25, at 1200 UTC. That word this week from Chris Bond, KF4UGG, at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. SEDSAT-1 will include Amateur Radio digital packet store-and-forward and analog repeater systems. SEDSAT-1 will fly as a secondary passenger along with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Deep Space One mission aboard a Delta II booster.

Built by students at the University of Alabama's Huntsville campus, SEDSAT-1 will carry a Mode L digital transponder as well as a Mode A analog transponder.

Project coordinator and UAH Associate Professor Mark Maier, KF4YGR, says SEDSAT will separate from the second stage over the Eastern Pacific between California and Hawaii about 83 minutes after launch. SEDSAT will begin transmitting Mode L.

The Mode L frequencies will be 1268.175 to 1268.250 MHz up and 437.850 to 438.000 MHz down, FSK, 9600 baud. The Mode A frequencies will be 145.915 to 145.975 MHz up, and 29.35 to 29.42 MHz down.

Maier says the Mode A transponder will not be turned on immediately. "It will take several weeks and will have to be scheduled because of power issues," he said. "Also, we've seen a bit of frequency drift with time and temperature so don't be surprised at some changes in the exact values on orbit." Maier says this is due to the fact that the radios are "several years old, from an earlier incarnation of the project."

For additional information, visit the SEDSAT Web site, <http://146.229.5.181/>



## Florida Ham May Challenge FCC Charges

>NewsLine<

A Florida ham who was recently fined by the FCC now has an attorney and the lawyer seems to be getting ready to take on the local police force and FCC. He also does not seem to like the way that the press is reporting on his client. Newsline David Black, KB4KCH has more from our south-east bureau in Birmingham, Alabama.

The attorney for Palm Beach amateur Jeffrey Guss, KF4MWT, questions the validity of the charges against his client. In a letter to the CGC Communicator newsletter, and posted to the CGC website, lawyer John J. McVeigh of Columbia, Maryland, cites what he calls troubling aspects in the case against Guss.

Guss was fined \$2,500 by the FCC for malicious interference to a business radio frequency. McVeigh says one of the police officers who took a major role in directing enforcement action against Guss was apparently upset because of interference caused to the officer's own home electronics.

McVeigh says he's not accusing the FCC of acting in bad faith, but he says he

fears the Commission is mistaken about the case. McVeigh suggests that quote "some third party has created circumstances which would lead the FCC to think that Mr Guss is their man."

Guss was accused after the Commission's Tampa office responded to complaints about foul language and unauthorized transmissions. Agents tracked those transmissions to Guss' home. That was one of two incidents that brought the FCC to Guss. The second incident, which occurred later that year, involved malicious interference to an amateur repeater used by a volunteer police force. Investigators tracked those signals to a mobile station. When they closed in on the truck they say signals were coming from, they spotted Guss riding in the rear bed.

McVeigh's letter makes no comment about either of those specific incidents investigators say points to Jeffrey Guss as the source of the offending transmissions.

From Birmingham, Alabama, David Black, KB4KCH, for Newsline.

## Club Meeting Program Ideas

Find an appealing subject that you can request from the appropriate officer(s) to see if GARS can get such a program. I have the list in it's entirety available upon request. -Ed

### Topic: Weather Observation and Hams

Comments: Ed talks about ham radio and weather observation. The Observatory is an interesting place, with a long history of contributions to the art of weather observation including the development of Radiosonde.

### Topic: Amateur Satellite Communications

Comments: A very good talk on this subject. As Drew is the AMSAT Vice-President of Publications, his talk is excellent. Drew's presentation is very polished, and is accompanied by hands-on materials, etc.

### Topic: Talking with Hams in the (former) Soviet Union and Eastern Europe

Comments: Sharon describes her friendships made with ex-SU and other former Eastern Bloc amateurs. She authored a QST article on this subject. She shows lots of gifts and items that have accompanied QSL cards.

### Topic: Radio Interference

Comments: Larry, a former FCC Official, gave a talk on past and present experiences in tracking down sources of radio interference.

### Topic: Airplanes & Amateur Radio

Comments: Doug is an accomplished pilot and ham and explains what you can do.



## OCTOBER Meeting Minutes by John Sokol, K9AOK - Secretary

President Ike Chapman started the meeting at 19:30 EDT. with a welcome to KE2ND Bruce, N4NCG James, K4UJ Paul, KG4AJW Marlin, KG4AJY William, KG4AJY Anita, KG4AJZ Raymond, KG4AJV Troy our visitors. Attendance was 39 folks.

Congratulations were given to Kevin Berry KF4RMA and his wife with the arrival of their new baby girl, also on Kevin's wife who has passed her no-code tech test.

KA4KKF David spoke about upcoming JOTA activities at the Methodist Campground Lawrenceville.

AF4FG Earl informed the club about JOTA activities at Scoutland on Lake Lanier and also said 5 Cubscouts passed the no-code tech test and 11 passed the novice test after his recent tech classes.

N1TOQ volunteered to Chair the next GARS Techfest. Date to follow.

Ike told all the upcoming dogshow will be Feb 5,6,7 volunteers are needed. Chuck Crawford with the Newnan Kennel Club sent a Thank You to the club for our help with the Sept. Wagfest.

Rob WB4GKI did a program on Heads Up Display technology. (If you missed the meeting it's your loss because if we told you details of this very informative program we'd have to kill ya!)

The September minutes were approved as

written.

Ike read the treasures report stating a balance of \$10,074.44.

David KA4KKF put in his bid to take over as editor of the newsletter come January 1999.

Ike reported Mark KD3GC wants to give someone else a crack at Chairing the Field Day effort next summer. This is GARS largest and most rewarding event and planning should be started soon, therefore a Chairperson is needed.

The long awaited GARS 501c tax-exempt status is official.

Mark KD3GC reported on the Dinner at the First Methodist Church of Lawrenceville. The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society will be their guest of honor. Also, The November Sweepstakes are around the corner CW Nov.7-9, Phone Nov.21-23 Mark will be submitting a club score he asks everyone to send him your logs.

Club redneck Marty KE4MLH gave door prizes to Lou NY4F \$100.00 Wagfest, Doug KB6RRX HRO gift Wagfest, W5RQR HRO gift, W4JLB HRO gift, KE4MLH Worldradio subscription.

The President closed the meeting at 22:30 EDT.

**Submitted by Kevin McClure KF4HFN**

### Outgoing DX Manager

**Ade N2BSG (pictured right) will be taking on the job of sending Club Members QSL cards each month up to ARRL Headquarters outgoing QSL Bureau. The club will pay the postage. So you Big Dxers, each month bring your QSL cards to the meeting with your updated mailing label from your QST magazine. The Bureau will not send them out if you are not a member of ARRL. If you will be sending more than 10 cards, please put each DX country and card in alphabetical order. Ok let's go guys... FREE mail to the Bureau. Ade**



### GARS Electronic Mail List



If you have an EMail address and have not yet registered it with the club and wish to do so, please send a message to Jack Hernon, WU4H and request to be added to the list.

Send to: [wu4h@jherndon.org](mailto:wu4h@jherndon.org)

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Mark Justice



### *...The President's Pen*

*(Continued from page 1)*

hear from the membership at large. So let me know what you think about the idea, you can email me at [ichapman@mindspring.com](mailto:ichapman@mindspring.com), or call me at (770)339-8123, or catch me on the **GARS** repeaters. But however you do it, please make an attempt to voice your opinion.

I'm on a roll here, so let's stay on the track about changes. Please don't forget that the deadline for commenting to the FCC on the proposed amateur radio license changes is December 1, 1998. My personal opinion is that it is the duty of every licensed ham to comment to the FCC on this issue. Whether you back the FCC proposal, the ARRL proposal, oppose any change at all or some combination of all of the above, please make your voice heard. You can find the instructions for commenting at the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org> or if you don't have web access, give me a call and I'll give you the information you'll need to write them.

More changes, this time in the club's corporate identity. After several years of work by a good number of folks, we've received our 501.3(c) non-profit certification from the IRS. This was an effort begun by Howie Gould, W4NVF when he was President of **GARS** and has not come to fruition. There will be more information on how this will assist and affect the club in the coming months.

Let me take the time to thank Robin Huckaby, WB4GKI for his program at the October meeting. We had a relatively small turnout for a **GARS** meeting but everyone that did make the meeting has told me how much they enjoyed the program.

I also want to thank and recognize Barry Zoll, N1TOQ who has volunteered to take over as the **GARS** Techfest Chairman. Barry is replacing Kevin Berry, KF4RMA who is leaving us to move to Pennsylvania. We'll all miss Kevin who gave us the idea of the Techfest and was so successful in organizing our first event last year. Barry will be calling on folks very soon to set up booths and demonstrations for the Techfest and I'm hoping we'll have the chili and cornbread cookoff again also. I'm not sure if we've locked in a date yet but if we go by the same scheduling as last year it'll be on Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Look for more information and a call for volunteers soon.

We still have not filled the post of Field Day Chairman for Field Day 1999. The committee for this year held it's first meeting in December, 1997 so it's certainly time to get that ball rolling. We need to secure the site in January with the Parks and recreation department. If you're at all interested please let me know so we can discuss it and get this important position filled.

Our annual **GARS** Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn in Suwanee. We've got the room reserved from 8 until midnight and a very nice buffet will be reserved. John (K9AOK) and Tammy Sokol have done a great job in putting the party together and have some surprises in store for us all. We'll have door prizes both amateur radio and non-amateur radio related. Kevin McClure, KF4HFN will be our DJ again this year and there's to be a dance floor for those swift of foot. Tickets will be on sale at the November club meeting, the

prices will be the same as last year, \$15 per person or \$25 per couple, and children under twelve will be \$7.50. The club is picking up part of the tab to keep the ticket prices the same from the revenues from some of the fund raising we've done during the past year. We'll need to have all tickets purchased by December 15<sup>th</sup> so we can give a final head count to the hotel for catering. At last year's Christmas Party, Sharon Adcock made the comment that we should have had a can-a-thon in conjunction with the party. We took this idea and used it at Field Day 1998 and have a successful event with the food being donated to the Norcross Cooperative Ministries. At this year's Christmas Party we'll have another can-a-thon, so when you come to the party, bring a non-perishable food item or a personal care item and let's see if we can outdo ourselves from the Field Day effort.

I think that about wraps it up for this month. I certainly hope to see you all at the **GARS** meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>. As of this writing, Johnny Fearon, W4WKP was still working out which program we'd have but you should have heard on the weekly club net by now. Don't forget our Weekly Family Breakfast at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Lawrenceville.

73,  
Ike, KE4GYM



## Look Who's Talkin

Here are a few log entries from different hams who have had recent Radio contacts. This sun spot cycle seems to be coming around slowly, but great contacts can be made. Check out the solar Flare Index (SFI) numbers and see how they compare to the log entries below. Check them out and give a call for CQ on a band, you never know who'll return your, "Seek You".

Compiled by Karl Phillips, K4GZZ

### SFI Readings for:

<b>October 26</b>	<b>October 27</b>	<b>October 28</b>	<b>October 29</b>
<b>104.9</b>	<b>103.8</b>	<b>108.1</b>	<b>112.9.</b>

Date	Local Station	Other Station	Band	Mode
11/5/98	AD4PZ	DU4DX - Jun	10 Meters	SSB
Comments	Indonesia, I used 100 watts and tri-beam.			
11/2/98	AD4PZ	YC9WZJ - Johnny	10 Meters	SSB
Comments	Philippines, Good contact very little QSB.			
11/2/98	AD4PZ	JR1EAX - Iro	10 Meters	SSB
Comments	Scanning band & heard his CQ. 50f there in Toyoko.			
10/17/98	K4GZZ	IK5EKB - Savro	10 Meters	SSB
Comments	Italy, Savro passed third party traffic between Karl & John, KE4D (GARS member in N. Georgia)			
10/17/98	AD4PZ	OK1RI, Jeri	10 Meters	SSB
Comments	Czechoslovakia			
10/7/98	K4HBI	KC4AAA	20 Meters	SSB
Comments	DXpedition in Antartica South Pole.			
9/14/98	KF4NOG	OM5DP, Marten	17 Meters	SSB
Comments	Nesvady, Croatia from Shelby Hamfest /M (Mobile)			
9/1/98	N1TOQ	CX5AB	10 Meters	SSB
Comments	Barry worked Montvideo, Uruguay on a G5RV & 100W.			
6/7/98	AG4FO	V63KV, Sam	20 Meters	SSB
Comments	Susan worked Sam who was in Micronesia off of Australia.			



## FCC CRACKS ENFORCEMENT WHIP ON JERSEY HAM

>ARRL<

The FCC has begun to crack its amateur enforcement whip. A New Jersey ham has been ordered off 40 meters until further FCC notice after allegedly causing interference to the ANARC Net on 7.240 MHz October 18.

The FCC also issued an Official Notice of Violation October 21 against James C. Thompson, KA2YBP, of Waretown, New Jersey.

Thompson, 58, was accused by FCC inspectors out of the Langhorne, Pennsylvania, FCC office with illegally retransmitting programs from a Standard Broadcast (AM) station on 40 meters and willfully interfering with the amateur net. The FCC also charged Thompson with failing to properly identify.

It's the Commission's first amateur enforcement action since the FCC announced it would consolidate amateur enforcement within the Compliance and Information Bureau under the coordination of Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, the CIB's legal advisor for enforcement.

Hollingsworth said the FCC acted in the Thompson case on complaints from amateurs, but FCC inspectors did all the legwork. FCC inspectors at Thompson's home found an AM receiver "positioned adjacent to the Amateur station's microphone and tuned to 1450 kHz," the FCC said. Hollingsworth said FCC personnel used a combination of long-range and local monitoring and tracking to zero in on Thompson's QTH as the source of the interfering signal.

Hollingsworth said he anticipates additional amateur enforcement cases to develop as a result of calls to the Amateur Enforcement Line, 202-418-1184.

## Doesn't that look Refreshing?



**O**n a hot day it helps keep you cool. Automatically you associate those familiar colors and distinctive lines with quality. Does it make you want to wet your whistle? I'm referring to that well recognized: **GARS Hat!**

By the way, some soft drink makers seem to like them too. Yes you too can own your very own GARS Hat by contacting our apparel Chairman. See the list right. Thanks to our model Brian, KF4MWI for proudly displaying those banner colors.



### GARS Apparel

Golf Shirt (White or Red)	
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With Name & Call Sign	\$28
Tee Shirt (White or Red)	
W/O Name & Call Sign	\$20
With Name & Call Sign	\$20
Light Weight Jacket (Red only)	
W/O Name & Call Sign	\$31
With Name & Call Sign	\$35
Heavy Weight Jacket (Red only)	
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With Name & Call Sign	\$45
Sweat Shirt (White or Red)	
W/O Name & Call Sign	\$30
With Name & Call Sign	\$30
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W/O Name & Call Sign	\$9
With Name & Call Sign	\$14
Sweatshirt, Jacket & Hat	
Remove old call sign	\$7
Add new call sign	\$5

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K4HBI Mike

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## Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

## First Tuesday

## Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House, 5490 Chamblee/Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody.  
Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by meeting. Talk In 145.410(-)

## First Tuesday

## Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta.  
Meeting begins at 7:30pm. Talk In 146.88(-)

## First Wednesday

## HamWatch

Alpha Soda Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Dinner  
at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM

## First Thursday

## N.E. Ga ARC

Jefferson Civic Center, off of Memorial Dr. toward Winder  
from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. Talk In - 147.225(+)

## Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Power Federal Credit Union, 4900 Ashford Dunwoody  
Road, 1 Mile North of Perimeter Mall. Meeting is at 7:30PM  
Talk In -146.820(-)

## Second Wednesday

## North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Ryan's on Alpharetta Highway (Hwy 9), Alpharetta, Dinner at  
6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM Talk In - 145.47(-)

## Second Thursday

## Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at  
7:30PM. Talk In - 146.760(-)

## Second Saturday

## East Atlanta LAN

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Dunwoody  
Meeting is at 10:00AM. Talk In - 145.41(-)AND 443.025+T100

## 3rd THURSDAY

## Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. Meeting begins at  
7:30 in the fellowship hall. Talk In-147.075(+)



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# THE GARZETTE

NOVEMBER 1998

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30048



**GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on November 19 at 7:30 P.M.**

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THE GARZETTE

NOVEMBER 1998

**GARS** Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a Service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

**1st Sunday - 2:00pm WCARS VEC**  
Terry Jones, K4FB 770-967-6364  
Johnson High School  
3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainsville

**1st Saturday - 9:00AM**  
George White, KN4NG 361-6850  
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg.  
7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

**2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM**  
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759  
Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Rd,  
Snellville

**2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC**  
Hal Martin, K14RD - 978-9160  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church  
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

**3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC**  
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171  
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56

Whitlock Ave, Room 305  
**4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC**  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466.  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville

**4th Friday - 7:00PM W5YI-VEC**  
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362  
St. John Neumann Church  
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks



## Atlanta Area Nets and Round Tables

Mon	50.235	8:30PM	Regional 6 Meter SSB Net
Mon	147.21+	9:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Mon	147.075+	9:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Tue	28.420	7:30PM	Ten Meter Traders Net
Wed	145.41	11:30AM	Boy Scout Youth Net
Wed	145.150-	8:00PM	Georgia Tech Stinger Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Thu	146.88-	8:30PM	Kennehoochee ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	427.25ATV	9:00PM	Amateur Television, ATV
	146.655 Voice		
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	145.47-	8:00PM	NFARL Youth Net
Fri	146.45-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.45-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafras Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.